United Nations S/PRST/2017/7

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 June 2017

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7974th meeting of the Security Council, held on 15 June 2017, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its resolutions 2014 (2011), 2051 (2012), 2140 (2014), 2201 (2015), 2204 (2015), 2216 (2015), 2266 (2016), 2342 (2017), and presidential statements of 15 February 2013, 29 August 2014, 22 March 2015 and 25 April 2016.

"The Security Council expresses grave concern about the devastating humanitarian impact of the conflict on civilians and emphasises that the humanitarian situation will deteriorate in the absence of a political solution.

"The Security Council expresses deep concern about the recent outbreak of cholera, which is the latest indicator of the gravity of the humanitarian crisis.

"The Security Council recalls that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue conference, and relevant Security Council resolutions provide the basis for inclusive negotiations for a political settlement of the crisis in Yemen and expresses concern at the continued non-implementation of these resolutions.

"The Security Council expresses its continued support for the tireless efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, to bring the parties to negotiations with a view towards swiftly reaching a final and comprehensive agreement to end the conflict in Yemen. The Security Council calls on the parties to immediately agree on the modalities for a durable Cessation of Hostilities. Furthermore, the Security Council reiterates its call to all parties to engage in peace talks in a flexible and constructive manner without preconditions, and in good faith.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the attack on the UN Special Envoy's convoy during his recent visit to Sana'a, and calls upon the Houthis and supporters of former President Saleh to undertake a full investigation to identify those responsible and hold them to account. The Security Council calls upon all parties to the conflict to engage constructively with the Special Envoy's proposals for peace and ensure the unhindered access of the Special

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Envoy to all parts of Yemen. The Security Council notes the statement by the Government of Yemen contained in document S/2017/476.

"The Security Council calls upon all parties to comply with international humanitarian law, including to at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants, and between civilian objects and military objectives, and by taking all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects, and to end the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, in order to prevent further suffering of civilians. The Security Council further underlines the need to ensure the security of humanitarian and United Nations personnel. The Security Council calls on all parties to respect and protect medical facilities and personnel. The Security Council further calls on the parties to allow the safe, rapid and unhindered access for humanitarian supplies and personnel to the populations of all affected governorates, and to facilitate access for essential imports of food, fuel and, medical supplies into the country and their distribution throughout. In this regard, the Security Council stresses the importance of keeping all Yemen's ports functioning, including Hodeida port, as a critical lifeline for humanitarian support and other essential supplies, in line with the Special Envoy's latest proposals for Hodeida port and city.

"The Security Council shares the grave concern of the Secretary-General about the threat of famine in Yemen, which he described as the largest food insecurity emergency in the world, and notes with deepest concern the additional humanitarian challenge presented by the alarming cholera outbreak in the country. The Security Council emphasizes that the spread of cholera and the threat of famine reflect the gravity of Yemen's humanitarian crisis and the severe strain the conflict has placed on the country's institutions.

"In light of this worsening crisis, the Security Council calls on all parties to engage constructively with the Special Envoy's latest proposals for increasing commercial and humanitarian shipments through Red Sea ports including new arrangements for the management of Hodeida port and city. These proposals would act as a confidence-building mechanism between the parties, with a view to a durable cessation of hostilities as a step towards the resumption of peace talks under UN leadership. The Security Council urges the parties to work with the Special Envoy to conclude an agreement for the resumption of government salary payments and the preservation of essential government services in all areas of the country.

"The Security Council, with a view both to addressing the humanitarian emergency, and to building confidence between the sides in a way which will be conducive to political negotiations, encourages rapid agreement on (a) deployment of additional United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism monitors; (b) increasing the capacity of all of Yemeni ports, including through the timely installation of cranes at Hodeida to increase the port's capacity; (c) increased access to Sana'a Airport for lifesaving humanitarian supplies and movement of urgent humanitarian cases.

"The Security Council calls for immediate mobilisation of the funds pledged to Yemen at the Geneva Pledging Conference of 25 April 2017, hosted by the United Nations Secretary-General together with the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland, and full funding of the United Nations 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen as part of a coordinated international response to the crisis. The Security Council also expresses support for the statement made by the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator on 26 May on the urgent need to provide funding to halt the spread of cholera.

"The Security Council calls on all Member States to fully implement the arms embargo as required by the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Security Council also calls on the Houthis and forces allied to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh to cease all attacks at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"The Security Council takes threats to shipping around Bab al-Mandeb, a strategically important shipping passage, extremely seriously and stresses that the continued exercise of navigational rights and freedoms in and around Bab al-Mandeb strait in accordance with relevant international law must be upheld.

"The Security Council expresses grave concern about the presence of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Yemen, and the impact its violent extremist ideology and actions have upon civilians and stability in Yemen and the region. The Security Council further expresses concern at the presence and future potential growth of affiliates of the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), and reaffirms its resolve to address all aspects of the threat posed by AQAP, ISIL (Da'esh), and all other associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. In this regard, the Security Council calls upon all Yemenis to combine their efforts in countering the threat posed by terrorism.

"The Security Council emphasises that the conflict in Yemen will only be resolved through the resumption of an inclusive political process, and calls upon all parties to the conflict to engage constructively and in good faith to overcome obstacles and find a peaceful solution. The Security Council calls upon the parties to ensure at least 30 percent representation of women in peace negotiations, and calls upon the UN to regularly report on consultations with women leaders and women's organisations in line with resolution 2122 (2013).

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen."

United Nations S/PRST/2017/8

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2017

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7993rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 30 June 2017, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Côte d'Ivoire", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"As the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) completes its mandate on 30 June 2017, the Security Council commends the remarkable achievements made by Côte d'Ivoire since 2004.

"The Security Council takes note of the oral report delivered by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire at the 7957th meeting of the Security Council, held on 2 June 2017, entitled 'The situation in Côte d'Ivoire', including the assessments, lessons-learned and the recommendations contained therein. The Security Council expresses its intention to take them into account in the framework of its ongoing work to enhance the overall effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping.

"Recalling its resolution 2284 (2016), the Security Council welcomes the notable progress made by Côte d'Ivoire to consolidate lasting peace and stability, as well as economic prosperity. It underlines the improvements in strengthening national reconciliation and social cohesion as well as the overall security and humanitarian situation, and progress on respect for human rights, which play crucial roles in promoting peace and stability.

"The Security Council also welcomes the successful presidential and legislative elections, conducted respectively in 2015 and 2016, which have helped to consolidate Côte d'Ivoire's democratic institutions. The Security Council further welcomes the constitutional referendum held in 2016.

"The Security Council recognises the important contribution of UNOCI in promoting peace, stability and development in Côte d'Ivoire throughout its thirteen years of existence. The Security Council expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Operation and the United Nations Country-Team, under the leadership of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General. The Security Council commends the contribution of troop- and police-contributing countries and donors to UNOCI, and welcomes the support provided by the French Forces. It welcomes the good cooperation between UNOCI and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, as well as with bilateral partners, regional and international organizations.

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"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to undertake within a year, and within existing resources, a comprehensive study of the role of UNOCI in the settlement of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire since its establishment, taking into account the contributions of political mediation, the sanctions regime as well as other relevant factors as appropriate, that allowed for the successful completion of UNOCI's mandate. The Security Council looks forward to the results of this study, including further lessons learned and recommendations, and expresses its intention to consider options for taking them into account in the context of its ongoing work to enhance the overall effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping.

"The Security Council recalls the primary responsibility of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for ensuring peace, stability and the protection of civilians in Côte d'Ivoire. It welcomes the commitment of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to the stability in the region and to counter terrorism and violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism. It also welcomes the commitment of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to fight against all forms of transnational organized crime. It stresses the importance for Côte d'Ivoire's long-term stability of ensuring a peaceful, credible and transparent electoral process in 2020.

"The Security Council stresses that there is important work ahead to further advance peace and justice and to secure equitable prosperity for the benefit of all Ivoirians. It underlines the importance of action by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to tackle the remaining challenges in this regard, supported as appropriate by the United Nations Country Team and the international community.

"The Security Council stresses the need for continued progress, following UNOCI's withdrawal, in the fight against impunity, the advancement of national reconciliation and social cohesion, the full and equal participation of women in government and public institutions, the reform of the security sector, the promotion and protection of human rights, including through the work conducted by the National Human Rights Commission, as well as the management of refugee returns, statelessness, and land tenure.

"Taking note of recent incidents involving members of the security forces as well as former combatants, the Security Council reaffirms in particular the necessity to prioritize without delay and accelerate the complete implementation of its national security sector reform strategy, in order to further strengthen the professionalization and cohesion of the national security services and to enhance confidence within and between the security forces and the population. The Security Council also stresses the importance of accelerating and consolidating efforts to develop and implement sustainable reintegration opportunities for former Ivoirian combatants, as well as of continuing efforts to improve the monitoring and management of weapons in order to reduce the number of illicit weapons in circulation. The Security Council underlines the crucial contribution of security sector reform to the stability of the country as well as to continued progress in security, national reconciliation and social cohesion.

"The Security Council notes that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has indicated that the United Nations will continue to be an important partner in the next phase of the development of the country. The departure of UNOCI does not mark the end of the support of the United Nations to sustaining peace in Côte d'Ivoire. The Security Council therefore welcomes the ongoing engagement of the Secretary-General and United Nations Country Team in

support of the efforts of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire as it seeks to preserve and consolidate its peacebuilding gains and in order to promote sustainable development, the rule of law, and the strengthening of human rights protections and institutions, as well as tackle other remaining challenges related to security and development. The Security Council recalls in this regard the Transition plan presented by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, UNOCI, and the United Nations Country Team, which outlines programmes aimed at contributing to tackle remaining challenges faced by the country. The Security Council encourages the international community, including bilateral and multilateral donors, to assist the activities of the Country Team, including by considering providing funding to this transition plan.

"The Security Council reiterates its request in resolution 2284 that the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) to make available its good offices, as necessary, to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

"The Security Council commends the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Mano River Union for their efforts to consolidate peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire and the subregion, and encourages them to continue to support the Ivorian authorities in addressing key challenges.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of continued support to Côte d'Ivoire as it embarks on the next stage of its development, beyond UNOCI, and welcomes the willingness of the United Nations and bilateral and multilateral partners to continue, as requested by the Ivorian authorities, to play a significant role in this regard."

United Nations S/PRST/2017/9

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2017

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 8001st meeting of the Security Council, held on 13 July 2017, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Central African Republic", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses concern at the ongoing clashes between armed groups in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the targeting of civilians from specific communities, UN peacekeepers and humanitarian workers which continue to destabilize the country and cause heavy civilian losses and significant population displacements despite agreement by parties to the conflict to an immediate cessation of hostilities.

"The Security Council deplores all attacks against civilians, abuses and violations of human rights, including those involving sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, as well as the looting of humanitarian premises and reiterates the urgent and imperative need to hold accountable all perpetrators of such abuses and violations, irrespective of their status or political affiliation

"The Security Council reiterates that some of those acts may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and recalls that, following the request of the national authorities, the Prosecutor of the ICC opened in 2014 an investigation into alleged crimes committed since 2012.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of the fight against impunity and takes note in this regard the report of the Mapping Project documenting serious violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law committed within the territory of the CAR between January 2003 and December 2015. The Security Council calls for the operationalization of the Special Criminal Court as well as the restoration of the judiciary, criminal justice and penitentiary systems throughout the country.

"The Security Council is deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation in the country, including the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), where nearly half of the estimated 4.6 million Central Africans are in need of humanitarian assistance. The Security Council reiterates its demand that all parties allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need.

"The Security Council renews its support to President Touadéra, welcomes his efforts to advance the dialogue with the armed groups and the

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extension of state authority in all parts of the country, and encourages President Touadéra to lead an inclusive political process that involves men and women of all social, economic, political, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including IDPs and refugees, without delay. The Security Council calls on the CAR authorities at all levels to take the necessary steps to advance the justice and accountability, disarmament, reconciliation and reform agenda promoted by President Touadéra in line with the conclusions of the Bangui Forum.

"The Security Council recalls its presidential statement of 4 April 2017 (S/PRST/2017/5) and welcomes the agreement signed in Rome on 19 June 2017 under the auspices of the Sant-Egidio community as a step forward for peace and stability in the CAR.

"The Security Council strongly condemns violence perpetrated by armed groups and calls on all armed group leaders to sensitize their members to the provisions of the agreement in order to immediately implement the cessation of hostilities provisions in the agreement as well as to honour their commitment, without any restriction, to the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation (DDRR) process.

"The Security Council also welcomes the African Union Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR, and reiterates the need to coordinate all efforts in support of the peace and reconciliation in the CAR, under the leadership of the CAR authorities.

"The Security Council in this regard takes note of the outcomes of the meeting of CAR's partners held in Brussels on 21 June and welcomes the agreement to develop a joint road map to continue the mediation with the armed groups under the leadership of the CAR Government in partnership with the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR and, with the support of the CAR's international partners.

"The Security Council calls on all of CAR's partners, in particular the African Union and neighbouring States, to urgently agree upon and support the implementation of this joint road map, with a view to reach a sustainable cessation of hostilities over the entire territory of the CAR. In this regard, the Security Council calls on all CAR's partners to build a shared vision and continue strengthening their coordination in support for the political process and longer-term peace and stability in the CAR.

"The Security Council also calls upon the neighbouring Member States to engage in the resolution of cross-border issues that destabilize the CAR, including seasonal migration and trafficking of weapons and natural resources.

"The Security Council emphasizes the critical importance of effective implementation of the sanctions regime, including the key role of neighbouring States, as well as regional and subregional organizations in this regard, and encourages efforts to further enhance cooperation and implementation of the sanctions regime in all its aspects.

"The Security Council renews its strong support to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Parfait Onanga-Anyanga and to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in the implementation of its mandate in support of CAR authorities, including through the adoption of a proactive and robust posture to protect civilians and promote the political process and for the progressive and coordinated reformation and reoperationalization of the FACA and other internal security forces, in accordance with paragraphs 34.b.i, 34.b.v, and 34.b.vi of resolution 2301 (2016)."

United Nations S/PRST/2017/10

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 July 2017

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 8009th meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 July 2017, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace consolidation in West Africa", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and welcomes the briefing on 13 July 2017 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohamed Ibn Chambas.

"The Security Council expresses full support to the Special Representative and looks forward to efforts to enhance ongoing activities undertaken by UNOWAS in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, subregional and regional cooperation to address cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security, the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, as well as the promotion of good governance, respect for the rule of law and human rights, humanitarian access and assistance and gender mainstreaming.

"The Security Council welcomes the recent positive political developments in several West African countries, in particular the peaceful transition of power in The Gambia and the holding of free and transparent legislative elections on 6 April 2017. In this regard, the Security Council commends the diplomatic efforts by ECOWAS Heads of State, supported by the SRSG, on the basis of Security Council resolution 2337 (2017), resulting in the peaceful transition of power to the democratically elected President Adama Barrow.

"The Security Council encourages bilateral and multilateral partners to provide appropriate support to the efforts of the Government of The Gambia to restore the rule of law, reconciliation, and development for the citizens of The Gambia.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern over the situation in Guinea-Bissau, calls upon all political leaders to uphold the provisions of the Conakry Accords, and commends the efforts of ECOWAS to help find a way out of the political crisis.

"The Security Council welcomes the notable progress made by Côte d'Ivoire to consolidate lasting peace and stability, as well as economic prosperity, following the closure of the United Nations Operation in Côte

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d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on 30 June 2017 and underlines the need for UNOWAS to have a proactive engagement during the transition plan period. In this regard, the Security Council reiterates its request in resolution 2284 (2016) and its S/PRST/2017/08 that the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) make available its good offices, as necessary, to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Resident Coordinator and underscores the importance of continued support to Côte d'Ivoire during its transition process beyond UNOCI.

"The Security Council takes note of the adoption by ECOWAS Ministers on 10 February of four key documents to advance gender mainstreaming and the meaningful inclusion of women in political, peace and security processes.

"The Security Council expresses its concerns over the threats of terrorism, including widespread terrorist ideology in the region and their linkages to transnational organized crime, as well as the worsening humanitarian situation in the region. In this regard, the Security Council strongly condemns all terrorist attacks carried out in the region, in particular in Northern and Central Mali and the Lake Chad Basin region, notably by Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. The Security Council stresses the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including by addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. The Security Council expresses particular concern about attacks on civilians, who are the primary victims of this terrorist violence.

"The Security Council welcomes the subregional, regional and international efforts to mitigate the security, humanitarian and development consequences of Boko Haram's operations. The Security Council takes note of the progress made in the operationalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and urges the Member States participating in the MNJTF to further enhance regional military cooperation and coordination, deny haven to Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, secure the conditions to enable humanitarian access and facilitate the restoration of civilian security and the rule of law in liberated areas. The Security Council reaffirms that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular, international human rights laws, international refugee laws and international humanitarian law.

"The Security Council encourages Member States and multilateral partners to lend their support to the MNJTF to ensure its full operationalization, including the provision of modalities to increase the timely and effective exchange of intelligence to further the region's collective efforts to combat Boko Haram, whenever possible and appropriate. The Security Council underscores the importance of a holistic approach to degrade and defeat Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, whenever possible and appropriate, that includes coordinated security operations, conducted in accordance with applicable international law, as well as enhanced civilian efforts by regional governments to improve governance, re-establish schools and promote economic growth in the affected areas.

"The Security Council reiterates deep concern over the dire humanitarian situation caused by the activities of Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant in the Lake Chad Basin region, in particular grave food insecurity and potential famine in some areas. In this regard, the Security Council calls on the international community to immediately support the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance for the people most affected by the crisis in

Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, including by fulfilling the United Nations appeal for the Lake Chad Basin region. It also urges regional governments to facilitate access for humanitarian organizations and to work with the United Nations and international partners to develop viable options for delivering aid.

"The Security Council welcomes the $458 million for humanitarian assistance pledged at the Oslo conference for 2017 and urges swift disbursement of these funds to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis and to begin to address endemic development needs and strongly encourages all other non-traditional donors to contribute in line with the needs highlighted in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plans of each country.

"The Security Council further welcomes the Government of Nigeria's announcement of its 2017 spending plans for northeast Nigeria which project total federal and state government expenditure of $1 billion on development and humanitarian activities, and urges swift implementation of these plans.

"The Security Council expresses continued concern about piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the trafficking of drugs and other illicit goods, the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking and stresses the need to strengthen the fight against illicit activities in the subregion in accordance with applicable international law.

"The Security Council welcomes the leadership demonstrated by countries in West Africa and the Sahel in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges in the region and encourages further collaboration between Member States, regional and subregional organizations, relevant United Nations entities and with other relevant stakeholders to enhance social cohesion and to address challenges to good governance.

"The Security Council commends the engagement of UNOWAS with subregional and regional organizations, in particular, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Group of 5 for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel), the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Mano River Union, in order to promote peace and stability in West Africa and the Sahel. The Security Council remains committed to working closely with these organizations through UNOWAS to strengthen subregional and regional cooperation to address cross-border security threats and prevent the spread of terrorism. In that respect, they welcome the assistance of UNOWAS to the efforts of the ECOWAS Commission to implement its Regional Framework for Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Governance and to promote a coordinated SSR approach in the region.

"The Security Council notes the collaboration undertaken between UNOWAS and the Peacebuilding Commission and encourages continued close and effective cooperation in support of sustainable peace in the region.

"The Security Council commends the efforts of the African Union and ECOWAS, as well as of Member States in West Africa and the Sahel to strengthen border security and regional cooperation, including through the G5 Sahel and the Nouakchott process on the enhancement of the security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel and Sahara region.

"The Security Council acknowledges the impact of the situation in Mali on the regional peace and security in the Sahel, West Africa and North African region and welcomes in this regard the deployment of the FC-G5S throughout

the territories of its contributing countries, with up to 5,000 military and police personnel, with a view to restoring peace and security in the Sahel region.

"The Security Council also welcomes the financial support to the G5 Sahel force (FC-G5S) including, as noted in operative paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 2359.

"The Security Council encourages further progress by the implementation of the UNISS, including through support to the G5, in order to assist in addressing the security and political challenges to the stability and development of the Sahel region and reaffirms its continued commitment to address such challenges, which are interrelated with humanitarian and development issues as well as the adverse effects of climate and ecological changes, and, in this regard, highlights the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies relating to climate change impacts.

"The Security Council expresses its support for SRSG Chambas and for the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), in their efforts to implement the UNISS. In this regard, the Council takes note of the UNISS Steering Committee meeting of 5 May 2017 to discuss ways to fast-track the recommendations of the independent review of the UNISS, and expresses concerns over lack of funds that has hampered the implementation of three important flagship projects, notably 'Support for Resilient Pastoralism', 'Strengthening the resilience of mobile populations and vulnerable communities' and 'Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women to increase resilience in the Sahel'.

"The Security Council welcomes the efforts of UNOWAS to coordinate with countries of the region and all stakeholders, and to provide strategic leadership, guidance and direction to the United Nations system for the effective implementation of the UNISS, including its thematic focus, coordination arrangements, partnerships and distribution of responsibilities among United Nations entities in the field and at Headquarters and reiterates the importance of the continuing UNOWAS collaborative engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission. The Security Council emphasizes in this context the importance that the United Nations and its partners enhance their programmatic capacity and focus to address cross-border challenges with a view to encouraging deeper integration and cooperation among the countries of Sahel. The Security Council reiterates, in this regard, the importance of continuing UNOWAS collaborative engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission drawing on its convening role for achieving greater coherence and deeper financial and political commitments from the United Nations and its partners in the region.

"The Security Council requests UNOWAS to continue to monitor progress made in the implementation of the UNISS and to provide, in its next report, detailed information, in particular, on its efforts and initiatives to sustaining international engagement and develop programmatic coherence in the implementation of the UNISS, including through ensuring attention to all its pillars, and funding gaps, as well as streamlining and coordination of initiatives by international and regional actors in the Sahel region."

United Nations S/PRST/2017/11

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 July 2017

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 8010th meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 July 2017, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Liberia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council commends the overall progress towards restoring peace, security and stability in Liberia, the commitment of the people and Government of Liberia to peace and to developing democratic processes and institutions, and the contributions of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) since its establishment in 2003, and welcomes the Liberia Peacebuilding Plan, entitled 'Sustaining Peace and Securing Development' (S/2017/282), submitted by the Secretary-General to the Council pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2333 (2016) after development through close consultation between the UN, the Government of Liberia, and partners.

"The Security Council takes note of the peacebuilding plan and actions to be undertaken during phase I of the plan from April 2017-March 2018 in support of the Government of Liberia's commitment to develop, before UNMIL's departure, durable national capacities critical to sustain peace, and, in this regard, encourages all stakeholders to enhance efforts to fulfil their commitments and provide their support for successful implementation and emphasizes the need for expanded efforts by the Liberian authorities to address the root causes of conflict, reinvigorate reconciliation processes, promote land reform, advance constitutional and institutional reforms, especially in the justice and security sectors, promote women's active participation in peacebuilding, extend state authority and social services throughout the country, and build trust between Liberian citizens and the government institutions.

"The Security Council encourages the Government of Liberia to accelerate its accountability and transparency efforts to bolster public confidence in advance of elections and transfer of power, and stresses the need for the government to honour its commitment to support the passage of the Land Rights Bill and the Local Government Bill, which will positively impact the lives and livelihoods of Liberian citizens and contribute to overcoming the societal and structural inequities that were at the root of the conflict, and emphasizes the importance of the legislature's timely action to ensure these bills are passed.

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"The Security Council notes the importance of credible presidential and legislative elections in Liberia in October 2017 and calls upon all stakeholders to ensure that the elections in October will be free, fair, credible, and transparent, including through the full participation of women, and that any dispute will be resolved peacefully through established mechanisms in accordance with the law. The Security Council welcomes the signing of the 'Farmington River Declaration' on 4 June at the ECOWAS Summit, by 20 out of the 22 political parties that were registered at the time, committing to violence-free elections in October and a peaceful transition to a new government, encourages the Government to ensure adequate resources are committed and expeditiously distributed for the National Elections Commission, and reiterates its call on international partners to support the Liberian authorities in ensuring the credibility of those elections, including through the deployment of international electoral observers. The Security Council commends international partners for their continued support in preparation for elections and encourages their continued assistance.

"The Security Council commends the successful completion of the transfer of security responsibility to Liberia's security services on 30 June 2016 and encourages the efforts underway by the Government of Liberia to put in place an elections security plan aimed at responding effectively and appropriately to any incident of public disorder and calls on the government to provide adequate resources to implement the plan.

"The Security Council expresses its continued concern that women and girls in Liberia continue to face a high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence, and reiterates its call on the Government of Liberia to address the urgent and imperative need to combat impunity and hold accountable all perpetrators responsible for such crimes, to reinforce its commitment in this regard, including through the implementation of its national action plan on sexual and gender-based violence and improving women and girls' access to justice.

"The Security Council emphasizes the need for continued international attention to, and involvement in, Liberia, and urges the Government of Liberia, UNMIL, and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to continue to coordinate closely in the transfer of responsibilities taking into account UNMIL's drawdown and closure at the expiration of the final period of its mandate on 30 March 2018, as set out in Resolution 2333 (2016). The Security Council encourages the continued engagement of the international community and donors, including in support of the commitments made in the Liberia Peacebuilding Plan, to address capacity gaps identified in the UNCT's mapping exercise needed to assure continuity of relevant peacebuilding programs and assist Liberia's continued efforts to achieve sustainable peace. The Security Council emphasises, in this context, the importance of the convening role of the Peacebuilding Commission.

"The Security Council welcomes the support of bilateral and multilateral partners, including the UN, African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union, and encourages them to continue to play a significant role in support of building and sustaining peace in Liberia."

United Nations S/PRST/2017/12

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 July 2017

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 8012th meeting of the Security Council, held on 26 July 2017, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses concern at the current political situation in light of the challenges facing the implementation of the 31 December agreement, the deterioration of the security situation, in particular in the Kasaï region, as well as the increase in abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in the country.

"The Security Council takes note of the appointment of a new Prime Minister, the establishment of the transitional Government, and the signing of the «Arrangements particuliers» for the implementation of the agreement by some, but not all, of the signatories of the agreement. The Security Council expresses concern at the slow implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement. It reiterates that effective, swift and timely implementation of the Agreement is critical to a credible electoral process and the peace and stability of the DRC, as well as in supporting the legitimacy of the transitional institutions, as it represents a viable road map towards the holding of peaceful and democratic elections. The Security Council stresses the urgency of swift implementation of the agreement, in good faith and in all its components, in order to organize peaceful, credible, inclusive and timely elections, no later than December 2017, as agreed in the 31 December 2016 agreement, and leading to a peaceful transfer of power, in accordance with the Constitution and Security Council resolution 2348 (2017), including through the full and equal participation of women. The Security Council reiterates its call for the full implementation of the confidence building measures agreed in chapter V of the 31 December 2016 agreement, some of which are yet to be implemented.

"The Security Council appeals to all Congolese actors to work for the preservation of the still fragile gains in the path of peace and stability in the DRC, it underscores the responsibility that all Congolese political stakeholders bear, especially by overcoming their differences to reach consensus and upholding the interests and well-being of their people above all other considerations, and strongly urges all stakeholders to redouble their efforts to ensure the inclusivity of all signatories of the Agreement in its implementation, including the process leading to the appointment of the Chair of Conseil National de Suivi de l'Accord. The Security Council expresses concern that, unless political actors demonstrate renewed good faith and political will to deliver on the promises they made to their people on New

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Year's Eve 2016, the DRC and the wider region are set to face an increased risk of insecurity and instability. The Security Council further calls upon all political parties, their supporters, and other political actors to remain calm and refrain from violence of any kind. The Security Council reiterates its commitment to act accordingly regarding all Congolese actors whose actions and statements impede the implementation of the agreement and the organization of the elections.

"The Security Council welcomes the progress made in the voter registration process, led by the National Electoral Commission, CENI, with the active support of MONUSCO, and calls for the continuation of these efforts in order to ensure that voters throughout the country, including in the Kasaï provinces, are duly registered. The Security Council calls for the swift publication of the electoral timetable, as called for by the African Union at its 29th Summit, which would provide clarity on both the timing and steps ahead and allow partners, including the UN, whose technical and financial support remains important for the holding of the elections, to better determine the type of assistance they need to provide and to enable the effective preparation of elections. The Security Council takes note of the repeated commitment by DRC authorities to fund the upcoming electoral cycle, and underlines that, despite the budgetary difficulties facing the Government, it remains crucial that the promised funds are disbursed as scheduled to ensure that the electoral process proceeds in a timely manner.

"The Security Council reiterates its condemnation of the violence witnessed in the Kasaï region over recent months and expresses serious concerns at violations and abuses of human rights committed in the region, including cases of sexual violence in conflict, and at the recent reports of more alleged mass graves. The Security Council takes note of statements by DRC representatives claiming that some alleged mass graves were in fact burial sites. The Security Council reiterates its grave concern at serious violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights committed by local militia in that region, including those involving recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, attacks on civilians and civilian sites, as well as attacks on DRC security forces and symbols of State authority. The Security Council further expresses concern about attacks, in contravention of applicable international law, against schools and hospitals and calls for respect to the civilian character of schools, in accordance with international humanitarian law. The Security Council further reiterates its serious concerns at the recent reports of significant increase in violations of international humanitarian law and human rights by members of the security forces of the DRC in the Kasai region, including the disproportionate use of force and the killing of civilians. The Security Council underlines that these violations and abuses might constitute war crimes under international law. The Security Council underscores the primary responsibility of the DRC Government for ensuring security in its territory and protecting its population, with respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law, and calls on the Government of DRC to desist from any excessive use of force and on all other parties to immediately cease and reject any kind of violence, lay down their arms and engage in a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"The Security Council further expresses concern over the humanitarian crisis caused by the violence, which has displaced more than 1.4 million people internally and forced more than 30,000 people to flee the country. The

Security Council underlines the urgent need for safe and unhindered access for humanitarian actors.

"The Security Council reiterates the importance and urgency of prompt and transparent investigations into violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of human rights in the Kasaï region. It welcomes the dispatch of a team of international experts to work in cooperation with the Government of the DRC. The Security Council reiterates its intention to closely monitor progress of the investigations into these violations and abuses, including the joint investigations by the Government of the DRC, MONUSCO and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC, in order to bring to justice and hold accountable all those responsible, and it looks forward to their report. The Security Council takes note of the recent prosecution and conviction of several DRC armed forces soldiers and a National Congolese Police agent as a first step towards countering impunity.

"The Security Council reiterates the need for the Government of the DRC to swiftly and fully investigate the killing of the two members of the Group of Experts and bring those responsible to justice, it calls upon the Government of the DRC to cooperate with the United Nations enquiries, as well as with law enforcement investigations that may be conducted by Sweden or the United States, in accordance with DRC national legislation. The Security Council looks forward to the results of the United Nations Board of Inquiry established by the Secretary-General to investigate the deaths of the two experts. The Security Council recalls its decision in paragraph 3 of resolution 2360 (2017) that acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the DRC include planning, directing, sponsoring or participating in attacks against MONUSCO peacekeepers or United Nations and associated personnel, including members of the Group of Experts, and expresses its readiness to designate individuals and groups responsible for such attacks for sanctions.

"The Security Council notes with concern the continued activities of armed groups in Eastern DRC, including a recent increase in violence against local communities and the DRC armed forces, escalating ethnic tensions, and an increase in internal displacement.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the DRC.

"The Security Council reiterates its support to the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, MONUSCO, the African Union and regional organizations in helping to ensure the full implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement, in accordance with its resolution 2348 (2017). The Security Council calls on partners of the DRC to continue to support genuine efforts by national stakeholders towards the full implementation of the Agreement. The Security Council reiterates its call to countries of the region — who four years ago signed the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region — to expedite efforts towards fully implementing their national and regional commitments under the PSC Framework, which remains essential for the achievement of lasting peace and security in the Great Lakes region. The Security Council calls upon the United Nations, the Guarantors of the Framework Agreement and the Member countries of the ICGLR and SADC to provide all the necessary support to this end."

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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 8016th meeting of the Security Council, held on 2 August 2017, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council remains deeply concerned over the political situation in Burundi, the lack of implementation of resolution 2303 (2016) and the lack of engagement by the Government of Burundi in that regard. While noting that the security situation in the country has remained generally calm, it remains alarmed by the increasing numbers of refugees outside the country and disturbed by reports of torture, forced disappearances and extra-judicial killings, as well as by the persisting political impasse in the country and the attendant serious humanitarian consequences.

"The Security Council stresses that the situation prevailing in Burundi has seriously undermined the significant gains achieved through the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement of 28 August 2000 (the Arusha Agreement), with devastating consequences for Burundi and the region as a whole. The Security Council underscores its deep concern regarding the continued worsening of the humanitarian situation, marked by nearly 202,000 internally displaced persons, 3 million people in need and more than 416,000 Burundians seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, and commends the host countries for their efforts, and calls upon governments in the region to respect their international obligations relating to the status of refugees, and to ensure that their return is voluntary, based on informed decisions and in safety and dignity.

"The Security Council strongly condemns all public statements, coming from in or outside the country, that incite violence or hatred towards different groups in Burundian society, including calls for forced impregnation of women and girls. It welcomes the condemnation of such statements by CNDD FDD officials and calls on the Government of Burundi to ensure that those responsible for such acts are held accountable. It strongly urges the Government of Burundi and all parties to cease and reject any kind of violence and condemn any public statement inciting violence or hatred, and demands that all sides in Burundi refrain from any action that would threaten peace and stability in the country and may affect regional stability in the long run, or undermine the East African Community-led, African Union-endorsed inter-Burundian dialogue. It reiterates its intention to pursue targeted measures

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against all actors, inside and outside Burundi, who threaten the peace and security of Burundi.

"The Security Council commends regional efforts to help Burundians find political solutions and reiterates its support to the facilitation led by former President Benjamin Mkapa under the mediation of President Yoweri Museveni, in his capacity as Chair of the East African Community (EAC). The Security Council welcomes the decision of the African Union (AU) at its 29th summit, which reaffirms the AU's commitment to the peaceful resolution of the crisis in Burundi through the rapid launching of an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue, under the aegis of the EAC, with the support of the AU, and which requests all the Burundian stakeholders to participate actively and unconditionally in this process. It further stresses that this dialogue is the only viable process for a sustainable political settlement in Burundi. The Security Council remains deeply concerned over the lack of progress in this dialogue. The Security Council welcomes the report by facilitator Mkapa to the 20 May EAC summit and calls for the immediate implementation of the roadmap on the way forward. The Security Council stresses the urgent need for active engagement of the EAC member States for the regional mediation, facilitated by Benjamin Mkapa, to be continued and to succeed. The Security Council urges all Burundian stakeholders to take further measures to overcome the current political impasse.

"The Security Council underlines the utmost importance of respecting the letter and the spirit of the Arusha Agreement, which has helped to sustain a decade of peace in Burundi.

"The Security Council urges the Government of Burundi to reengage with international partners, especially the United Nations, in a constructive manner based on mutual trust. In that regard, the Security Council welcomes the visit of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Burundi and the full cooperation of the government of Burundi during his visit. It reiterates its full support to the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy in their efforts to engage the Government of Burundi on the modalities of the implementation of resolution 2303 (2016), in accordance with established United Nations practice, and to help overcome the current political impasse and foster an inclusive reconciliation process.

"The Security Council calls on the Secretary General and the Government of Burundi to finalize and implement the status of the Mission Agreement for the Office of the Special Envoy. The Security Council reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to enhance the United Nations engagement in Burundi, with a view to strengthening and supporting the team of the Special Envoy, in order to work with the Government of Burundi and other concerned stakeholders to support the EAC-led inter-Burundian dialogue and in the areas of security and rule of law, to engage with all stakeholders to the crisis, and work with all Burundian parties to develop confidence-building measures, to improve the human rights and security situation, and foster an environment conducive to political dialogue.

"The Security Council calls upon the Special Envoy to work with the government and civil society to support women's full and equal participation in the inclusive EAC-led dialogue, and further calls for the full and equal participation of women in decision-making at the national and local level, as well as for the engagement of women organizations in any humanitarian action or initiatives aimed at violence reduction and early warning, taking into account the vulnerability of forcibly displaced women.

"The Security Council strongly condemns all violations and abuses of human rights in Burundi, whoever perpetrates them, including those involving extra-judicial killings, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests and detentions; including those concerning children, forced disappearances, acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman and/or degrading treatment, harassment and intimidation of civil society, including women's organizations, and journalists, restriction of fundamental freedoms, as well as indiscriminate use of grenade attacks, including against civilians.

"The Security Council reiterates its regret at the decision by the Government of Burundi to suspend all cooperation and collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR), which has been present in the country since 1995 to strengthen Burundi's rule of law institutions, and calls for a swift solution through dialogue between OHCHR and the Government in order to enable OHCHR to fully resume its activities, including its monitoring and reporting functions, and fulfil its mandate. It notes that OHCHR responded to the Government of Burundi on 8 March 2017 regarding revisions to the draft memorandum of understanding between the Republic of Burundi and the United Nations concerning the updated terms for the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights in Burundi sent by OHCHR in November 2016 and urges the Government of Burundi and OHCHR to swiftly finalize the agreement without further delay.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern over the significant delays in the deployment of the AU human rights observers and military experts, noting that only 40 human rights observers and 8 military observers have been deployed to Burundi so far. It supports the AU call for the rapid signing of the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the activities of the human rights observers and the military experts of the AU, which will allow the AU human rights observers and military experts to fully operate in the country in fulfilment of their mandated responsibilities.

"The Security Council reaffirms the primary responsibility of the Government of Burundi for ensuring security in its territory and protecting its population, with respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law, as applicable. It urges the Government of Burundi to respect, protect and guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in line with the country's constitution and its international obligations, to adhere to the rule of law, to bring to justice and hold accountable all those responsible, including members of the security forces and violent actors affiliated to political parties, for crimes involving violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights, as applicable, including those involving sexual violence and all violations and abuses against children. The Security Council further calls on the Government of Burundi to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi mandated under Human Rights Council resolution A/HCR/33/24. The Security Council acknowledges the pardon of more than 1,000 prisoners in 2017, with political detainees among them, and calls for further confidence-building measures.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of maintaining up-to-date United Nations and AU contingency planning, consistent with resolution 2248 (2015), 2279 (2016) and 2303 (2016), to enable the international community to respond to any further deterioration of the situation.

"The Security Council remains concerned about the humanitarian and human rights situation in the country and calls on the Secretary-General to continue to sustain United Nations humanitarian assistance in support of the

Burundian population. It further notes that a number of bilateral and multilateral partners have suspended their financial and technical assistance to the Government of Burundi, considering the situation in Burundi, and encourages bilateral and multilateral partners and the Government of Burundi to continue their dialogue with a view to creating conducive conditions for the resumption of the assistance.

"In this context, the council welcomes the active engagement of the PBC as a viable platform for dialogue between Burundi and its partners, and further welcomes in this regard the socioeconomic retreat held in Bujumbura on 12 July 2017 with a view to assessing the socioeconomic aspects of the situation and agree on concrete steps to make cooperation more efficient and overcome existing obstacles.

"The Security Council also calls on States in the region to contribute to a solution to the crisis in Burundi, and to refrain from supporting the activities of armed movements in any way, and recalls in this regard commitments of the States in the region under the Framework agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region and the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees.

"The Security Council expresses concerns about information contained in reports to the Security Council regarding recruitment and training of Burundian refugees present on DRC territory.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of coordinating efforts between the African Union, the East African Community, the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and the United Nations, including the Special Envoy of the Secretary General, to continue to seek solutions to the crisis in Burundi.

"The Security Council acknowledges the contribution of Burundians peacekeepers serving in UN and African Union-led peacekeeping operations and reiterates the importance of upholding the standards of the United Nations.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Burundi.

"The Security Council notes its expectation that elections scheduled for 2020 in Burundi will be free, fair, transparent, peaceful, fully inclusive, with the participation of all political parties, and will ensure the full and equal participation of women throughout the process. It also underlines that considerable improvements to the political and human rights situation, in particular regarding fundamental freedoms, including for freedom of the press, and progress on reconciliation are necessary to enable credible elections.

"The Security Council recalls its request to the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the situation in Burundi every three months, to be reviewed after one year, including on any public incidents of incitements to hatred and violence, and changes to the situation on the ground, and *further requests* the Secretary-General to provide written reports immediately to the Security Council, as necessary, on grave security incidents, violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of human rights, as applicable, of which the United Nations in Burundi has knowledge, whoever perpetrates them.

"The Security Council requests that the Secretary-General identifies options for enhancing the United Nations involvement in Burundi and developing mutual confidence-building measures between the Government of

Burundi and the United Nations, with a view to strengthening the team of the Special Envoy, enabling the full resumption of OHCHR activities and fulfilment of its mandate, ensuring the full deployment of authorized AU human rights observers and military experts, and other measures that could improve the political climate, promote trust-building among Burundian stakeholders, and create space for dialogue.

"The Security Council is determined to continue to closely follow the situation in Burundi, including progress in the implementation of resolution 2303 (2016)."